(b) Even if all the records were available, the time and labour involved in collecting the information may not be commensurate with the results obtained.

Ernakulam Municipal Electric Scheme.

454. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether there are any defects or drawbacks of a technical character in the scheme proposed by the Municipal Council;

(2) if there are, what are they, and were they ever pointed out to the Municipality;

(3) are not the Government aware that the Municipality had incurred substantial expenditure in the preparation of the scheme;

(4) did not the Municipal authorities assure the Government that the scheme, if sanctioned, would enable them to introduce electric lighting for Ernakulam even before November 1929;

(5) would the Government be pleased to state the objection, if any, for sanctioning the scheme forthwith?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) The chief drawback is the inadequate provision for the cost of the scheme. This has not been pointed out to the Municipality yet, as the figures regarding the installation of electric lighting in Trivandrum which were required for purposes of comparison have not been received.

(3) A sum of Rs. 500 was sanctioned for the preliminary expenditure.

(4) Yes.

(5) Government are doubtful of the capacity of the Municipality to finance the scheme and run it. They will issue orders as soon as possible.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—(1) Is it not tantamount to saying that it was not brought to the notice of the Municipality? Then the chief drawback is the inadequate provision for the cost of the scheme. Will you explain that a little?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The scheme provides only for putting mains in the streets. The scheme contemplated the supply of energy from Mattancheri. That proposal which includes the putting of transmission lines across the backwaters requires revision. It would be satisfactory to take electrical waves from Mattancheri for the supply of energy in Ernakulam. There are many technical difficulties which will arise on such a proposal. For shipping facilities lines have to be put very high, at least 40 or 50 feet high. These are the main difficulties technically. So the Government thought whether it

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would not be better to have a self-contained installation in Ernakulam instead of getting power from the Cochin Electrical Company. If that be the proposal, 70 thousand rupees that have been estimated for by the Ernakulam Municipality would be found insufficient. So they wanted to get comparative figures from Trivandrum, to know what that Government have spent in introducing electricity in Trivandrum. Those figures have been called for and they have not been received. The main difficulty is one of provision for a power station in Ernakulam.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So the drawback was the cost of the scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The scheme provided only for estimating. If a complete, self-contained electricity is to be diverted here, the cost will be much more. It may be 2 or 3 lakhs against 70 thousand now proposed.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—And the Trivandrum scheme is not to take energy over the backwaters, I believe?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Trivandrum it is a self-contained plant. For transmission they have not to take over the backwater.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the definite information you can get for the purposes of Ernakulam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The cost of the power plant and so on.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is not this Government in possession of technical advice to enable them to make an estimate?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is in possession to make an estimate; but the other is much easier. They would get the details from a scheme which is already being installed.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Was not the scheme once estimated and approved by the International General Electric Company?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is there any better authority as that?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—So far as wearing is concerned they are reliable.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Was not this expenditure of Rs. 500 incurred with the sanction of Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The answer is clear on that.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—And did they not know that that was sanctioned for the specific purpose of estimating by this International Company?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For this specific purpose or for preparing estimates.

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